**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO EXPRESS SINCERE GRATITUDE TO THE DEDICATED PROFESSIONALS WHO EDUCATE STUDENTS OF THE PALMETTO STATE AND TRAIN THEM TO ASSUME ROLES AS RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS AND TO WELCOME THE SUMTER SCHOOL DISTRICT TEACHER FORUM TO THE CAPITOL.

Whereas, the Sumter School District Teacher Forum gives recognition to educators who have been named Teacher of the Year in their districts and on their campuses; and

Whereas, the Sumter School District Teacher Forum develops teacher leadership within this noteworthy group, gives teachers a voice in educational issues, and impacts the professional development of other teachers across the district; and

Whereas, in the last two years, the forum has focused on improving the professional environment through teacher leadership and administrative collaboration, engaging in‬ political action and community advocacy, establishing communities of professional learning, and recruiting and retaining quality educators; and

Whereas, the outstanding efforts of the Sumter Teacher Forum have significantly raised the level of teacher quality and awareness of teacher leadership; and

Whereas, since last year, the Teacher Forum organized and sponsored voter registration drives at Friday night football games, a meet‑the‑candidate forum for local and statewide candidates for elected offices on the November 2012 ballot, a Hurricane Sandy “Stuff a Bus” district‑wide service project, a legislative advocacy panel discussion, the Botswana Teacher Leadership Conference Service Project, the “Why I Teach” videotaping project, showing of *The American Teacher* documentary, and a Salvation Army coat drive that collected one thousand three hundred jackets; and

Whereas, this year, the Teacher Forum organized a scholarship fund which raised nearly $5,000 to be awarded to local area high school seniors interested in pursuing a career in education; and

Whereas, modeled after Legislative Days, members of the Sumter School District Teacher Forum visit key state‑level educational policymakers in Columbia at both the South Carolina State House and the South Carolina Department of Education to increase their knowledge about the governing process and legislative issues that affect their profession and to participate directly in the political process in order to raise participation through the advocacy of the district’s recognized teacher leaders; and

Whereas, the Senate welcomes Sumter Teacher Forum Chairperson Trevor Ivey and Lee Gandy of Alice Drive Middle School, Jason O’Neal of the Sumter Career and Technology Education Center, Bev Davis of DeLaine Elementary School, Antoinette Hampton of Oakland Primary School, Lisa Sanderson of Lakewood High School, Aretha Smith of Ebenezer Middle School, Debra Jett of Mayewood Middle School, Ayesha Hannibal of Bates Middle School, Jaime Yanesh of Shaw Heights Elementary School, Jenny Knopf and Angela Heyward of Crosswell Drive Elementary School, Cathi Kersten of Manchester Elementary School, Jason Gore and Christopher Edge of Crestwood High School, Edna Barrows of RE Davis Elementary School, Tenika Chambers of Hillcrest Middle School, and Julie Ardis of Kingsburg Elementary School. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the South Carolina Senate, by this resolution, express sincere gratitude to the dedicated professionals who educate students of the Palmetto State and train them to assume roles as responsible citizens and welcome the Sumter School District Teacher Forum to the Capitol.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be provided to Trevor Ivey for the Sumter School District Teacher Forum.

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